



Potters Guild of British Columbia

1359 Cartwright St., Granville Island
Vancouver, B.C. V6H 3R7
(604) 683-9623

NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 1990

ISSN 6319 812X

WORKSHOP WITH ANNE HIRONDELLE

Anne Hirondele of Port Townsend, Washington, will be offering a workshop, "Variations on the Vessel", for the Guild membership and students at the Emily Carr College of Art and Design, on Granville Island, on Saturday and Sunday, 9:30 am to 4:30 pm, March 10 and 11, 1990.

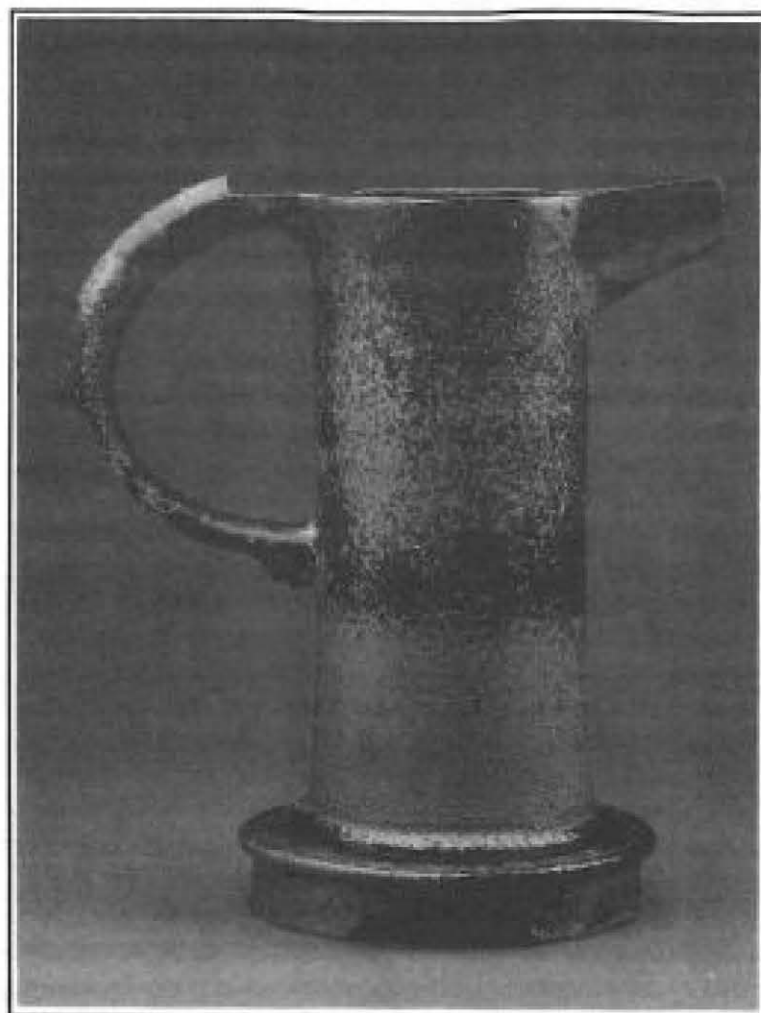
In the process, she will look at the vessel as an abstract, archetypal form; exploring both its sculptural and functional aspects. Anne will share her working philosophy and methods through a slide lecture followed by demonstrations of her throwing and handbuilding techniques.

She wrote in the 1988 *Ceramic Review*, No. 112, p 17:

"I climb the steps to my studio and enter my nest of clay. I feel like a small bird with my feet in the mud. As I move my wings, dust fills the air and light sifts through the particles. I cannot see clearly; nonetheless, I know my essential task: to find the courage to give myself over to another cycle of work. I took the name Hirondele, the French word for swallow, in a symbolic effort to acquire strong wings. Yet, each time I begin again, I feel like a fledgling, my small wings heavy with dust."

I build a fire in the wood stove, sweep the floor, and put things in order. I am secure in this small 10 x 14 foot structure behind my house. It is equipped with an electric wheel, a home-made extruder, a wedging table, some shelves, and two work tables. I spend the first several days at one of these tables: evaluating completed forms and searching for new ones. Unawares, the dust begins to settle and my wings begin to expand. At some point to my surprise, I am launched. Although I am never certain exactly where I'll end up, I have garnered the clarity of vision and the determination to get there."

Anne will also give a slide/lecture presentation on Wednesday, March 7th, at 12:15 pm at Emily Carr College. Look for notices in the College for room location.



"Pitcher with Base", 13 inches in height, stoneware with soda ash glaze, Cone 7-8 reduction fired.

Photographer: Roger Schreiber

The proceedings of the Annual General Meeting, held Thursday, January 25, 1990, including the reports of the President and the Treasurer, will be printed in the March issue.

The Potters Guild of B.C. NEWSLETTER

is published 10 times a year. Submissions are welcome, and should be in the Guild office by the last Friday of the month. Material may be edited for publication.

Managing Editor: Jan Kidnie.

Editorial Committee: Bob Kingsmill, Laurel McGregor, Hiro Urakami, Nathan Rafla, Anne Fleetham.

Mailing: Rosemary Amon, Jobst Frohberg, Savita Kshatrija, Jackie White.

Typeset: Wordpower **Printed:** Printing House

Advertising rates: \$75.00 full page; \$40.00 half page; \$25.00 quarter page; business card \$15.00; classified \$5.00 for 3 lines; additional lines \$2.00 each All ads must be prepaid.

The Potters Guild of B.C. membership is \$20.00-individuals, \$30.00-groups, January to January. See application form elsewhere in this issue.

Board of Directors: Heather Chapman, Theota Dancer, Tam Irving, Bob Kingsmill, Carol Klasen, Elwin Lowe, June MacDonald, D'Arcy Margesson, Nathan Rafla, Elsa Schamis, Laura Taylor, and Kathryn Youngs.

WORKSHOPS

The **Old School House** Gallery and Art Centre of Qualicum Beach is offering a pottery seminar, February 10 and 11, 1990, with professional potter, **Bob Kingsmill**, and Canada's leading potter, **Wayne Ngan**. Registration fee: \$50 per person. For more information call 752-6133, Monday thru Saturday, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm.

The 3rd bi-annual **Ceramic Symposium** takes place May 11-13, 1990, at the **Medicine Hat** College, and features lectures, workshops, forums, and Saturday night dinner. Presenters include Les Manning, Tam Irving, Greg Payce, Dave Settles, Don Wells, Allan Jensen, Michael Obranovich, Pat Bovey, and Shirley Rimer. Fee \$125. Contact (403) 529-3844.

The 15th anniversary conference of the Ontario Clay and Glass Association, **Celebrate Fusion**, will be held the weekend of June 1-3, 1990, at Carleton University, Ottawa. **Steven Hill**, a production potter in Missouri, and **Sally Michener**, currently Chairman of the 3-D Department at the Emily Carr College in Vancouver will both be giving a workshop as part of the proceedings of the conference. For further details contact Elin Racine at (416) 923-7406.

EXHIBITIONS

The **Whatcom Museum of History and Art**, 121 Prospect St., Bellingham, features "**North of the Border: Contemporary Vancouver Art**", curated by Ted Lindberg, and exploring trends and directions in contemporary art in Vancouver, March 3-May 13. An additional feature, from February 3-April 1, includes 16 works by **Jack Shadbolt**.

The **Cartwright Gallery/Canadian Craft Museum**, 1411 Cartwright St., Granville Island, features "**About Face**", Latin American Masks from the Alf Siemens' Collection, and **Artists' Masks for the Cartwright Carnevale**, until February 25. Opening March 9, until May 20, the nationally selected exhibition of 20 production craftspeople making functional objects, "**Designed for Production, Made for Use**", is curated by Lloyd Herman.

Surrey Art Gallery, 13750 - 88th Avenue, Surrey (596-7461) opens on February 22 to March 25 with "**Two Collections**": Ed Varney's lithographs and Hiro Urakami's ceramic collection. Hiro will give an informal talk and tour on Thursday March 1, 7:30 pm. The official opening reception is Sunday, February 25, 2:00 pm, with Ed speaking on "Why Collect?". Gallery hours are Monday and Friday, 9 to 5; Tuesday and Thursday, 9 to 9, and Saturday and Sunday, 1 to 5 pm.

The Perel Gallery, 112 West Hastings, Vancouver, exhibits the new ceramic work of **Anita Wong**, February 1 - 10. Gallery hours are Wed.-Friday, 12 to 4, and Saturday, 2 to 6.

REQUEST

Diane Creber, of Wilton Pottery, R.R. # 2, Odessa, Ontario, K0H 2H0, writes, "I am in the process of writing a book on crystalline glazes on porcelain. It will include a history of the process, methods, firing cycles and results. Also, I will include glaze recipes and the work of other potters." She asks any of you working in this media to get in touch with her at the above address.



Gallery of B.C. Ceramics
1359 Cartwright St. Granville Island
Vancouver BC, Canada
(604) 669-5645 V6H 3R7

GALLERY REPORT

1989 was very good for the Gallery and Gallery artists. Where major retailers report declines in sales over Christmas, the Gallery was up \$9000.00 in sales over last December. People want to purchase quality hand-made items. We have many repeat, as well as as first time customers, many of whom will return because of the quality and variety of work they find here.

The job as manager continues to be a challenge for me. It is a job that requires response to many different demands; no two days are alike. I am in the position of Gallery Manager to represent the Gallery artists as best I can. If any of you do not like some aspect of the Gallery, please tell me. I am more than willing to listen to your concerns, and perhaps you can learn about a few of mine. I can't do anything about your questions if I don't know what they are.

My main concern is that of storage space. With 70 potters on the books, the problem of putting work away safely is monumental. Not overpowering the Gallery with more work of one person than anyone else is also a juggling act.

The upcoming feature in the Gallery will be table ware created specifically for Design Week, February 6 - 25. **Lynda Chelak, Gary Merkel, D'Arcy Margesson, Laurie Rolland, and Takako Suzuki** have been invited to present new work for the table. Please come, browse, and give us your comments on the work. Your input is important and encourages us to do more. **Ron Tribe's** work will be featured from February 27th to March 18th.

Coralie Triance, Manager

SELECTIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

The Selections Committee met on January 24th to take an assessment of the work presently on display in the Gallery. It was felt that the work was of a reasonably high standard, but there were a few problematical areas. The following are the recommendations of the Committee:

1. To rejury work by potters who have been accepted but have never brought work into the Gallery.
2. That individual pieces of work be in the Gallery for a minimum of six months and a maximum of one year.

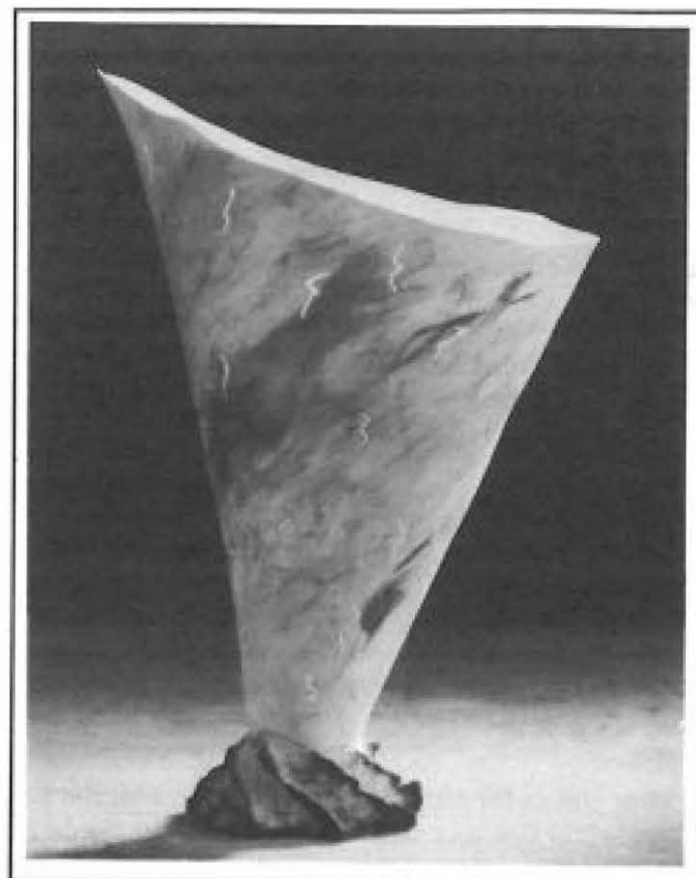
3. There will be a six month trial period for new participants. At the end of six months, the work will be reassessed.

4. Gallery artists should endeavour to bring us their best (no seconds, experiments, or Christmas sale leftovers). Only top quality work should be shown.

As ceramic artists, you should be conscious of dealing with a public that is knowledgeable and has the purchasing power to buy quality work. By showing your best, you will benefit from opportunities that help to advance your chosen career as a ceramic artist.

The Selections Committee will meet 3 times annually: January, for an overall look at work in the Gallery, and April 15 and October 15 will be the deadlines for work to be submitted for jurying. For the next jurying deadline, April 15, 1990, applicants are requested to submit 6 pieces of recent work, or slides, if from out-of-town, along with a retail price list of work submitted, and a typed biography.

Selections Committee



Jeannie Mah

Best wishes to Jeannie and Ed on their move to Regina!

A POTTER'S NOTES: THE RICHARD NOTKIN WORKSHOP*

The workshop began with Notkin giving each student a one cubic inch of clay. They were to work on their clay for one hour without talking. The 45 students produced an incredible variety of tiny objects. The objective of the exercise was to introduce us to his method of approaching clay and his philosophy of working.

Miniature carving, working small is about finding the interior scale. Your ordinary conception of time and space changes with an intense focus on a small piece of clay very deeply over time. Notkin has worked on a ball of clay less than 1" in diameter for two weeks (he later showed slides of the process of carving a 2" replica of a cow's skull in meticulous, exact detail). He goes into a kind of 'trance', and believes in the introspection that infuses a piece which is worked on over a length of time. This communicates directly to the person who looks at and touches the piece.

"my work is not about spontaneity"
"maximum content in a minimum of material"
".....a day lengthens to become a miniature year...." - a Chinese poem.

Conceptual pieces by students (examples from Notkin):

One student rolled out the 1" cube as thin as possible and formed a 6" box.
 Another made about 6 hollow cubes out of the one solid cube.

Slide series on the meticulous carving of a 3" human skull

Tools: exacto knife, 1 blunt, 1 sharp
 needle tools, blunt to very sharp
 tiny loop tools
 tiny brushes, smooth with water, add slip to build up thickness

The skull, 3" exact replica of human skull took one week of 8 hour days.

Need a great deal of light. Extra light will close down the iris and take the strain off the lens of the eye having to adjust all the time.

"The issue is mortality, and the spiritual vs the material."

Packing pieces for shipment: Build box (double box of cardboard OK, as cardboard gets gentler handling by shippers) to fit the piece. Place 2" of foam in the bottom, and layers of foam carved around the piece, with instructions for layering and numbers on each piece of foam so it is layered in order. Packing is sold with the piece: helps sales.

Throwing Miniature pieces: Throw off the top of a pointed hump, forming the tiny cup, cylinder, etc., with a pin tool and little finger of opposite hand. Trims with tiny loop tool, resting arms on a shelf. Used Plainsman P300 kiln that was 11x11x13 took several months to fill. Demonstrated by throwing a cup and saucer 1/2" across and 3/8" high! Rolled a handle, trimmed with an exacto knife, handle dry to leather hard.

VOCABULARY - PLUMBING ELEMENTS
 STOOL WITH MISSING RING
 INTERRUPTED CHESS GAME
 LITTLE BRICKS SAYING "NOTKIN"
 SKULLS
 LITTER - BOTTLES, RUBBLE, OLD
 TV'S
 CRATES, BOOKS
 TIRES



MILITARY INTELLIGENCE TEAPOTS - ARMOUR-PLATED
 TRIANGLE SKULLS - SOME CAMOUFLAGE-



NEXT → SERIES OF ARMoured
 HEART TEAPOTS - CLOSED,
 ARMoured HEARTS BECOME
 WEAPONS AND AMMUNITION

NEXT → GEOGRAPHICAL CAMOUFLAGE HEARTS:

NEXT → HEART IN CHAINS → 'BEIRUT',
 1989
 HEART BECOMES A WEAPON,
 MADE w/ SPIKES SWINGING ON A CHAIN

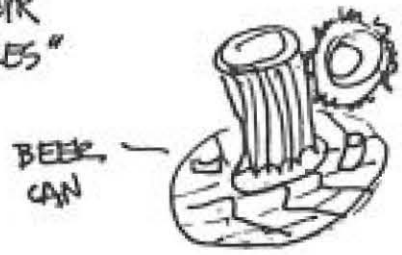
* We are indebted to Melissa Searcy from Saltspring Island for taking such similarly meticulous notes. (She does want the royalties, though!) While Richard sold copies of a major opus on the process of slip casting and molding, Melissa's notes are also quite impressive, and hopefully will be printed in the March issue. (assuming royalty arrangements are mutually agreeable! Ed.)

(2)
MELISSA SEARCY 1990

SOME PIECES HAVE 20-30 DRAWINGS! 1973



MAQUETTE FOR 8' MONUMENT
"THEY SHALL BEAT THEIR
SWORDS INTO PLOWSHARES"
GREEK COLUMN



CUP AND SAUCER
SERIES - GARBAGE
CANS WITH SPARE
TIRE HANDLES ON
CURB SAUCERS

Early influences: MAD MAGAZINE & DR. SEUSS
1976

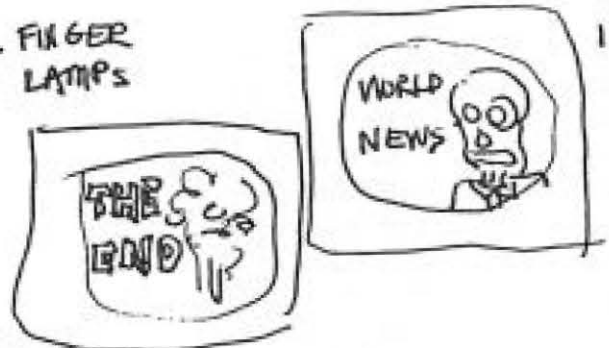


KOHLER PLUMBING ARTIST-IN-INDUSTRY PROGRAM

IDEA OF BUILDING
TORN AWAY - LOTS
OF STAIRWAYS
GORGEOUS
SOFT, OLD COLORS 2' TALL



CAST TV'S ALL
CARVED WITH DIFFERENT
IMAGES



1978 - ENDANGERED ANIMAL SERIES



#1 USED DOMESTIC
ANIMALS - WE
ARE ALL ENDANGERED

COW'S SKULL ON
A STOOL



SKULL ONLY 5" LONG
& 6 PORCELAIN

CLAY IS A CAMELEON MATERIAL - YOU CAN MAKE IT LOOK LIKE ANY-
THING
SKULLS ARE RUBBED WITH UNDERGLAZE WHICH FLUXES AT 1600°
MAKES A BEAUTIFUL THIN-GLAZED SURFACE

1980's TEAPOTS APPEAR
ALL KINDS OF
A SKULLS
YECCH



PACKING
CRATE ON
A DICE

....ALSO MUGS



DIME CUP ON
A DIME



PACKING
CRATE
MUG

ALL CAST
PIECES

2" - 4 1/2" HIGH



1980

BIG RED BUTTON SERIES

"BIG RED BUTTON":
MONITIONS AND CONTRACEPTIVES

SILVER COLORED

WE ARE ALL HELD
HOSTAGE - EVER SINCE HIROSHIMA

BORDER CROSSING II

After January's Newsletter publication, I received a phone call from John Charnetski, the Malaspina College ceramics and sculpture teacher, potter sculptor, and the organizer of Malaspina's ceramics seminars for many years.

John and Rondeau Fenton, who share a Nanaimo studio, took work to a show in Southern California last year, and he had some suggestions regarding crossing into the U.S.

They left their truck in a parking lot on the Canadian side and walked over to U.S. Customs to check things out. This was greatly appreciated by the Customs people. Since their work was for sale, Customs required that each piece show its country of origin (i.e., "Made in Canada"). John also suggested that invoices read "Works of Art, Made in Canada". As such, work can enter the U.S. duty-free.

Another point that could, perhaps, go unsaid, -but here it is anyway. "Don't lose your temper; go with a positive and attentive attitude". We can by our attitudes create monsters right before our very eyes. If you attempt to bully, coerce or otherwise manipulate a customs officer, you can only complicate your situation. If you go into this with a sour attitude, and, if by chance the officer has spent the night fighting a hemorrhoidal conflagration, you might just compound an already complex situation and never sell stuff in the U.S. at all!

Bob Kingsmill

Note from Dave Dobie at Greenbarn:

For those interested in Walter Ostrom's work, the Nov/Dec 1989 edition of *Harrowsmith* magazine contains an interesting article on Walter and Elaine Ostrom's house, garden, and studio in Nova Scotia. The article traces the development of their house and studio, built in stages over the past 17 years according to inspiration, budget limitations, and increasing family size.

CALLS FOR ENTRY/ OPPORTUNITIES

Crystal Garden Spring Craft Fair - Swift Sure Weekend: May 25-27 moves to St. Michael's Multi Centre, 3964 Gordon Head Rd., Saanich. Saanich hosts the B.C. Festival of the Arts at the same time. Application with SASE to Terri Heit, 977 Kentwood Tr., Victoria, V8Y 1A5. Phone: 658-2901

The Vancouver Community Arts Council will hold its 8th Annual Juried Exhibition, March 15-30. Select works from this exhibition will be included in the Assembly of B.C. Arts Councils' provincial exhibition, *Images & Objects VIII*, as part of the 1990 B.C. Festival of the Arts to be held in Saanich, B.C. in May. Phone the office at 683-4358, or write the CAC, 837 Davie St., Vancouver, V6Z 1B7, for further information.

The Cartwright Gallery, Circle Craft, the Crafts Association of B.C., and the Potters' Guild of B.C. are jointly sponsoring a "**Granville Island Summer Craft Fair**", August 4-6, 1990, on Railspur Alley on the Island. 75 to 100 participants will be selected by jury to take part. To make application, one must be a member of one of the sponsoring organizations, and crafts of all media, except painting, graphic arts and photography will be accepted. For further details or an application form, contact any of the organizations.

Vancouver Craft Market at the VanDusen Botanical Gardens takes place on a regular basis. Contact Simone Avram, 8540 Demorest Dr., Richmond, B.C., V7A 4M1, or phone 275-2724 for details.

Parke International Markets are now accepting application for their craft markets at Whistler, Kamloops, Van Dusen Gardens, Vancouver, West Vancouver, Coquitlam, White Rock, and Penticton. Contact 3257 W. 36th Ave., Vancouver, B.C., V6N 2R6, or phone 362-2363.

12th International Biennial of Ceramic Arts: July 1-Oct.31, 1990. Juried from slides. Awards: 40,000 francs (approx. \$2100) and 4 gold medals. Deadline for entry: April 30, 1990. Contact the Biennial Committee, Hotel de Ville, Vallauris, 06200, France.

The Works: A Visual Arts Celebration: Invites all artists, art organizations and others to participate in the 50th anniversary presentation of the Works Festival, June 22-July4, 1990. For a brochure, contact the Works/Alberta Part Art, Ste. 616, 10136-100th St., Edmonton, Alberta T5J 0P1.

CANADA COUNCIL

Jean Chalmers Fund for the Crafts: March 1 and September 1 are the deadlines for applications for support for special projects, research and special workshops for the crafts in Canada. Information: Visual Arts Section, Canada Council, 99 Metcalfe St., PO Box 1074, Ottawa, K1P 5V8; 416-237-3400.

Visual Arts Grants: A & B deadlines: October 1 and April 1. Project Cost and Travel Grant deadlines: January 15, April 15, July 15, and October 15. Information: 613-598-4323. Collect calls accepted.

Explorations Program: This program is designed to encourage projects that venture into new territories in the arts and culture. Proposals for initial undertakings in any art field (including crafts, design and performing arts) that seek to develop an original aesthetic approach and are intended for public presentation. Mailing date deadlines: January 15, May 1, September 15. (613)598-4339.

FIVE FELLOWSHIPS IN ART AND CRAFT: Open to artists and craftspeople under 35 from Commonwealth countries. Worth up to 6,000 pounds each and tenable for up to nine months. The Commonwealth Institute would also like to hear from any artists willing to share their studios and work with award winners in this way. Deadline: October 1. Information: Arts Department, Commonwealth Institute, Kensington High Street, London, W8 6NQ, England.

Membership Reminder: If your dues have been received by this office, the number after your name should read "90". If it still reads "89", hopefully your cheque is "in the mail"! If it isn't on its way yet, just remember, we do appreciate hearing from you, and hope it's mutual!

Again a request: while applying for the Hirondele workshop, and renewing your membership, thank you for writing separate cheques.

ANNE HIRONDELLE WORKSHOP, "VARIATIONS ON THE VESSEL", Emily Carr College of Art and Design, Granville Island, on Saturday and Sunday, March 10 and 11, 9:30 am to 4:30 pm.

Please register me for the
HIRONDELLE WORKSHOP

March 10, 11, 1990

ECCAD/PGBC

I will also take part in the Poluck Lunch on Saturday Yes____ No____

I enclose a cheque or money order for

____\$25 Guild member ____\$40 Non-Guild member ____\$20 Full time student

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

- () Membership Application
- () Membership Renewal
- () Change of Address

Mail to:

The Potters Guild of B.C.
1359 Cartwright St.
Vancouver, B.C. V6H 3R7

Name: _____

Address: _____

City & Province: _____

Postal Code: _____ Tel: _____

I enclose my cheque/money order in the amount of \$

(Fees: Individual: \$20/year, Group: \$30/year)

FOR SALE

Coast Ceramics Electric Kiln, 18" Diameter, 20" high inside; Cone 7, new coils. Good condition, \$350.00. Phone 922-3560.

Studio Sale: "Pots of Pleasure" is moving. Various studio odds and ends: Chemicals, shelves, Cone 10 glazes, bricks, etc. Phone Charmian or Eve, 228-0123.

A Steadman metal frame potters wheel, in good condition. \$150.00. Call Pauline at 980-3675.

Potter Wanted: An individual with background in ceramics to assist in design and production of Bonsai-type plant containers. 5-10,000 units minimum. Contact Vinde Hemingson, Ste. 404 - 850 W. Hastings, Vancouver, V6C 1E1, or phone (604) 687-5516.

WANTED TO SHARE

A new potter and member of the Guild wants to rent or share a ceramics studio in the Greater Vancouver Area. Contact Eric Chan, at 430-2004, Monday to Friday, 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm.

GREENBARN POTTERS SUPPLY LTD.

9548-192nd St. Surrey

Phone: 888-3411

We hear that the Malaspina Ceramic Seminar is set for April 28th. See you there !

RAM PRESSING

The article on RAM pressing in the recent issue of Ceramics Monthly has aroused a lot of interest. John and the people at RAM keep in touch. (John was involved in the installation and operation of the second Ram press in Canada) We will keep current information on the Ram press on hand for reference. If you are seriously interested in the RAM process, please inquire. The financial investment is considerable.

Plainsman Clays Ltd.

has just introduced a new clay body:

PLAINSMAN RAKU CLAY

Available immediately.

STRATFORD CLAYS

We now have some of the Stratford porcelain clay bodies in stock. We brought in a small representative collection for people to try out & will bring more in should they be popular.

(We should mention that under an ownership change, the Stratford clay boxes will be labelled "Tucker" after the old stock of boxes has been used up.)

STILL 50 % OFF ASSORTED GLAZE AND BODY STAINS. These are a variety of stains that Estrin used to carry.

We're open regular hours:

Monday - Friday 9 - 5

Saturdays 9 - 1